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# FDA Categorization of Investigational Device Exemption (IDE) Devices to Assist the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) with Coverage Decisions Final Guidance

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Office of Device Evaluation

Center for Devices and Radiological Health

- Investigational Device Exemption (IDE)
- Background and Rationale
- FDA Process: Category Criteria & Examples
- CMS Process: Application & Criteria
- Changing the Category
- References, Questions & Answers



# IDE Clinical Investigations

- Approved investigational device exemption (IDE) allows device to be used in a clinical study in order to collect safety and effectiveness data.
- Generally, an IDE study is conducted to answer outstanding questions about device safety and effectiveness.
- However, the extent to which initial questions of safety and effectiveness are already addressed depends on many factors.

[21 CFR Part 812](#)

# IDE Decision-Making Process



Approval of an IDE application indicates FDA has determined:

- Sponsor has provided adequate data to support initiation of the study.
- No subject protection concerns to preclude initiation of the study after Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval.
- Benefit-risk profile for the study is favorable.

FDA's process and considerations outlined in guidance:

- [FDA Decisions for Investigational Device Exemption Clinical Investigations](#)
- [Factors to Consider When Making Benefit-Risk Determinations for Medical Device Investigational Device Exemptions](#)

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# Background: “CMS Category”



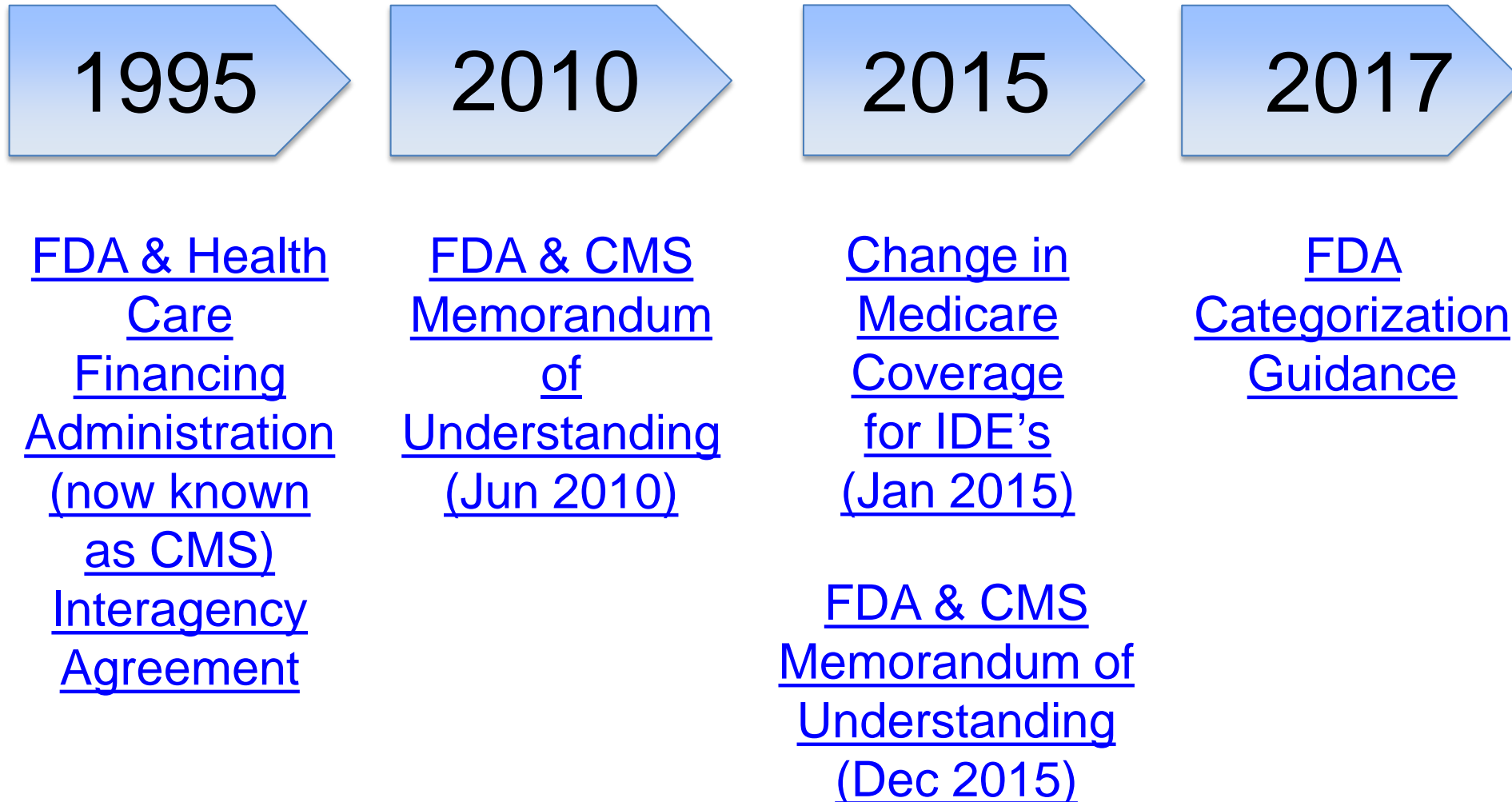
To support the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), FDA categorizes IDE devices based on whether available data demonstrates that initial questions of safety and effectiveness have been resolved.

IDE applications are assigned to one of two categories:

- Category A - Experimental devices
- Category B - Non Experimental/Investigational devices

FDA communicates this categorization in our regulatory decision letters by assigning a “CMS Category.” CMS uses this categorization as one of several factors in its determination of which devices meet the requirements for Medicare coverage.

# Historical Context





# Primary Rationale for Guidance

- Previous FDA policy regarding categorization did not adequately articulate criteria that are relevant to certain studies such as feasibility studies.
- Previous criteria did not consider all regulatory pathways (e.g., De Novo request).
- Previous policy did not contain sufficient guidance regarding how a category designation may change from A to B.

# Secondary Rationale for Guidance



- CMS changed from local Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) review of IDE studies to a centralized review of IDE studies effective January 1, 2015.
- Interactions between FDA and CMS since that time have highlighted a need for changes to categorization in order to improve consistency.

# Compare and Contrast



1995 Interagency Agreement	FDA Categorization Guidance	
Detailed criteria were used to designate an IDE device category.	Criteria have been simplified to ensure that devices fall into the correct category.	} Changes
Limited or no visibility to how a category change may occur as knowledge is gained.	Final guidance provides an explanation of how a category change may occur.	
No examples provided.	Examples provided.	
FDA review team makes the category designation.	Unchanged	} Same (no changes)
Category designation is to be based on the degree to which initial questions of safety and effectiveness are resolved.	Unchanged	
Categorization will then be used by CMS as part of its determination of whether or not items and services will be covered.	Unchanged	

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# IDE Review by FDA: Categorization



## Step 1: FDA Process

- IDE application
- FDA review
- Category assigned in IDE approval letter

# Category A: Regulatory Context



## Experimental

“...a device for which ‘absolute risk’ of the device types has not been established (that is, initial questions of safety and effectiveness have not been resolved) and the FDA is unsure whether the device type can be safe and effective.”

42 CFR 405.201(b)

# Category A: 1<sup>st</sup> Criterion



An IDE is assigned Category A if one or more of the following criteria are met:

“No PMA approval, 510(k) clearance, or De Novo request has been granted for the proposed device or similar devices, and data on the proposed device or other similar devices do not resolve initial questions of safety and effectiveness and FDA is unsure whether the device type can be safe and effective.”

- No prior approved/cleared device
- Available data do **not** resolve initial questions of safety and effectiveness

# Category A: 2<sup>nd</sup> Criterion



An IDE is assigned Category A if one or more of the following criteria are met:

“The proposed device is being studied for a new indication or new intended use for which information from the proposed or a similar device related to the previous indication or intended use does not resolve initial questions of safety and effectiveness. Available non-clinical and/or clinical data on the proposed device or similar devices relative to the new indication or intended use also do not resolve these questions and FDA is unsure whether the device type can be safe and effective.”

- New indication or new intended use
- Available data do **not** resolve initial questions of safety and effectiveness



# Category A: 3<sup>rd</sup> Criterion



An IDE is assigned Category A if one or more of the following criteria are met:

“The proposed device has different technological characteristics compared to a legally marketed device, and information related to the marketed device does not resolve initial questions of safety and effectiveness for the proposed device. Available non-clinical and/or clinical data on the proposed device or similar devices also do not resolve these questions and FDA is unsure whether the device type can be safe and effective.”

- New technological characteristics compared to approved/cleared devices
- Available data do **not** resolve initial questions of safety and effectiveness

# Category A: Summary of Criteria



An IDE is assigned Category A if one or more of the following three criteria are met:

- No prior approved/cleared device
- Available data do **not** resolve initial questions of safety and effectiveness

- New indication or new intended use
- Available data do **not** resolve initial questions of safety and effectiveness

- New technological characteristics compared to approved/cleared devices
- Available data do **not** resolve initial questions of safety and effectiveness

# Category A: Examples

- Novel device with no or limited previous human use
  - Remaining initial questions of safety and effectiveness.
  - Adequate non-clinical information to support initiation of an early feasibility study.
- New device
  - Initial question of **safety** have been answered with non-clinical data and short-term clinical data.
  - Additional data needed to resolve initial questions of **effectiveness**.

# Category B: Regulatory Context



## Nonexperimental/Investigational

“...a device for which the incremental risk is the primary risk in question (that is, initial questions of safety and effectiveness of that device type have been resolved), or it is known that the device type can be safe and effective because, for example, other manufacturers have obtained FDA premarket approval or clearance for that device type.”

42 CFR 405.201(b)

# Category B: 1<sup>st</sup> Criterion



An IDE is assigned Category B if one or more of the following criteria are met:

“No PMA approval, 510(k) clearance, or De Novo request has been granted for the proposed device or similar devices; however, available information (e.g., feasibility study data) from the proposed device or a similar device resolves the initial questions of safety and effectiveness.”

- No prior approved/cleared device
- However, available data resolves initial questions of safety and effectiveness

# Category B: 2<sup>nd</sup> Criterion



An IDE is assigned Category B if one or more of the following criteria are met:

“The proposed device is being studied for a new indication or new intended use; however, information from the proposed or a similar device related to the previous indication or intended use resolves the initial questions of safety and effectiveness. In some cases, additional non-clinical and/or clinical data on the proposed device may also have been used to resolve these questions.”

- New indication or new intended use
- However, available data resolves initial questions of safety and effectiveness

# Category B: 3<sup>rd</sup> Criterion



An IDE is assigned Category B if one or more of the following criteria are met:

“The proposed device has similar technological characteristics compared to a legally marketed device, and information related to the marketed device resolves the initial questions of safety and effectiveness for the proposed device. In some cases, additional non-clinical and/or clinical data on the proposed device may also have been used to resolve these questions.”

- Similar technological characteristics compared to approved/cleared devices
- Available data resolves initial questions of safety and effectiveness

# Category B: Summary of Criteria



An IDE is assigned Category B if one or more of the following three criteria are met:

- No prior approved/cleared device
- However, available data resolves initial questions of safety and effectiveness

- New indication or new intended use
- However, available data resolves initial questions of safety and effectiveness

- Similar technological characteristics compared to approved/cleared devices
- Available data resolves initial questions of safety and effectiveness



# Category B: Examples



- Device similar to other devices on the market
  - Substantial safety and effectiveness information exists from other similar devices of the same type that are used for a similar indication.
  - Clinical information from similar devices and non-clinical test data for the new device answer initial safety and effectiveness questions.
- Approved device for a new indication
  - Data exist on the approved device for a similar indication.
  - Non-clinical data also provided to answer initial questions of safety and effectiveness.

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# IDE Review by CMS: Decision

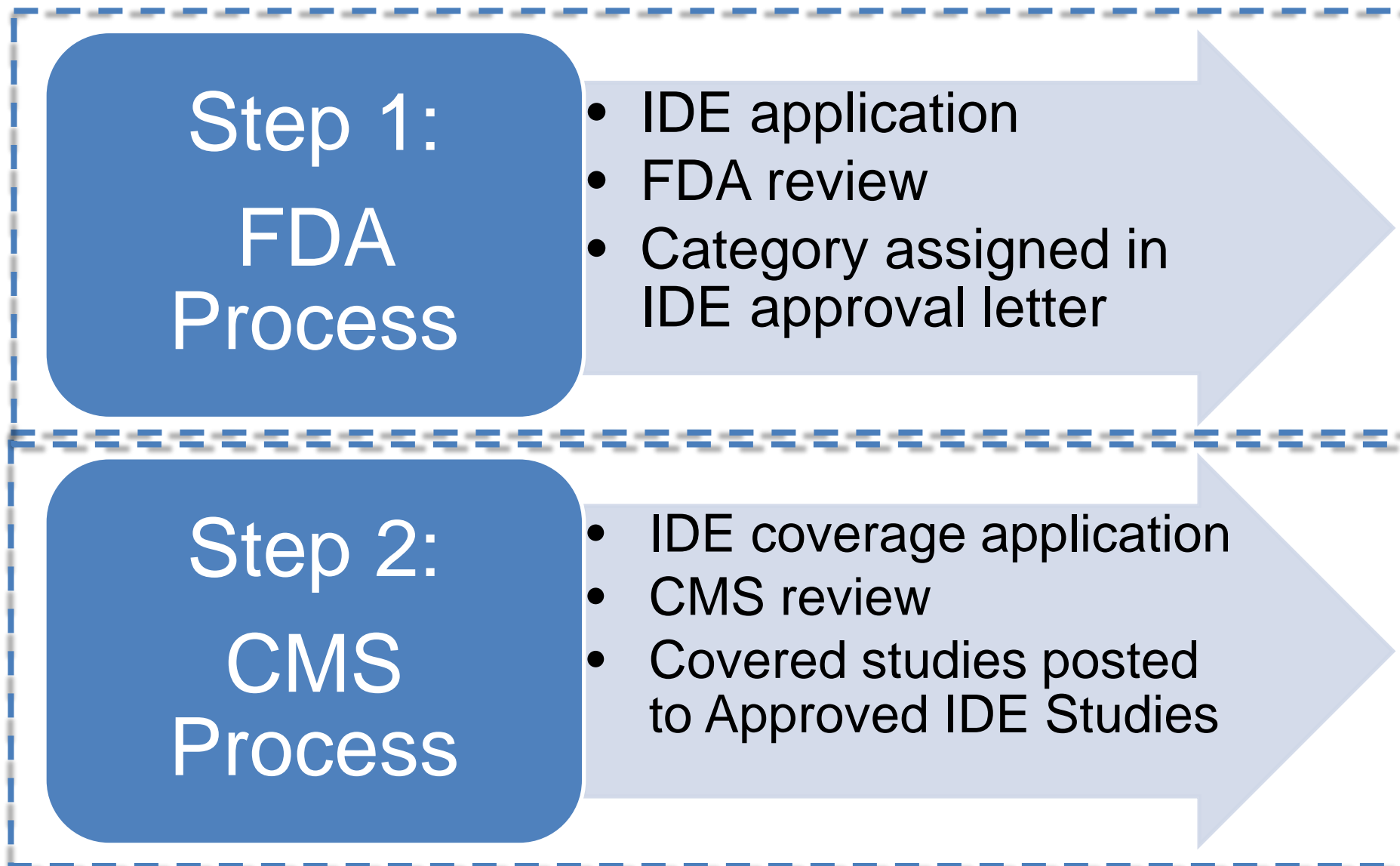


## Step 2: CMS Process

- IDE coverage application
- CMS review
- Covered studies posted to [Approved IDE Studies](#)

[Medicare Coverage Related to Investigational Device Exemption \(IDE\) Studies](#)

# IDE Review: Two Step Process





# CMS Coverage: Result

## Category A (Experimental) IDE

- Approval by CMS will **allow coverage of routine care items and services** furnished in the study, but **not of the Category A device**, which is statutorily excluded from coverage.

## Category B (Nonexperimental/investigational) IDE

- Approval by CMS will **allow coverage of the Category B device and the routine care items and services** in the trial.



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# Changing Category: Rationale



- Clinical and/or non-clinical data gathered during the study may resolve initial questions of safety and effectiveness.
- Category A study is completed resolving the initial questions of safety and effectiveness.

# Changing Category: Data



Examples of data that may support a change from Category A to Category B can include but are not limited to:

- Peer-reviewed studies on the same or a similar device
- Premarket or postmarket data from studies conducted outside the U.S. on the same or a similar device
- Reference to commercialization of a device of a similar type
- Preliminary clinical data on the device (e.g., initial data from a staged study, feasibility study)
- Additional non-clinical data on the same or a similar device may be included as supportive information



# Changing Category: Select Examples



- Approved device with novel procedure
  - Initial unresolved questions of safety and effectiveness regarding the novel procedure
  - Remaining questions may be answered with a limited number of subjects as part of a larger study
- Category A device being evaluated in a study
  - Clinical data for similar devices become available which resolve initial questions of safety and effectiveness



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# Payer Communication Task Force



- Facilitates early communications between device manufacturers, payers, and healthcare technology assessment organizations to potentially shorten the time between FDA approval or clearance and actual coverage decisions
- Focus on coverage outside of IDE studies
- Coordinates FDA/CMS Parallel Review program
- Coordinates other opportunities for public and private payer engagement

Contact us at:

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[Parallel-Review@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Parallel-Review@fda.hhs.gov)

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- [FDA Categorization of Investigational Device Exemption \(IDE\) Devices to Assist the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services \(CMS\) with Coverage Decisions](#)
- [Medicare Coverage Related to Investigational Device Exemption \(IDE\) Studies](#)
- [Medicare Approved IDE Studies](#)
- [Change in Medicare Coverage for IDE's](#)
- [FDA Decisions for Investigational Device Exemption Clinical Investigations](#)
- [Factors to Consider When Making Benefit-Risk Determinations for Medical Device Investigational Device Exemptions](#)

# References – Page 2



- [FDA/HCFA Interagency Agreement \(1995\)](#)
- [FDA/CMS Memorandum of Understanding \(2010\)](#)
- [FDA/CMS Memorandum of Understanding \(2015\)](#)
- [CDRH Payer Communication Task Force](#)

# Questions?

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